

Attorney Smith Describes His Rehabilitation Experience

"To acknowledge and admit you're going blind is the most important advice I can give to those who are losing their vision."

These are the words of Attorney Clarence G. Smith, who spoke at Family Night at the Toledo Society for the Blind on September 16. His topic was "Training by Rehabilitation Through Ohio Institutions for the Blind."

Mr. Smith, who served a year as judge on the Toledo Municipal Court, and has been a respected lawyer for 35 years, lost his sight in March of this year.

When Mr. Smith realized he was going blind, he came to the Society for the Blind while he could still see, and told us he was suffering from "low visual acuity" (loss of sight). He wanted to start getting help as soon as possible and learn to be able to move around and do things for himself when he went blind.



Attorney Clarence Smith, with mobility instructor Mrs. Rosalyn Snow, and his wife, at the Society.

Mr. Smith said "rehabilitation" could be defined as rebuilding or putting something back in good order, and although he couldn't be "rebuilt," or cured of his blindness, he could do the best he could at "putting things together" again to lead a meaningful life.

"By realizing what your condition is, achieving a certain degree of flexibility, and knowing what you're capable of doing and enjoying," this rehabilitation can be accomplished. Almost 2,000 blind people were given vocational training in Ohio last year, Mr. Smith said. The State's Vocational Rehabilitation Service for the Blind has been giving help since 1908, and in 1922 extended its services with special measures to detect eye deficiencies in children.

In spite of all that's being done, Mr. Smith said that there are many blind people who are unaware of the services available to them. For example, there are the talking books. Mr. Smith said he has recently been "reading" some material on archaeology. The regional distribution center for talking books is at the Society, he said, so there are many more books available than any one person could possibly ever "read."

He said that blind people are achieving more mobility now than in days past. In testimony of this, his wife read two documents: The White House White Cane Safety Day proclamation, and a new Ohio State law regarding guide dogs.

The proclamation, from the desk of United States President Richard M. Nixon, was made June 29, 1970 proclaiming October 15 as White Cane Safety Day—a day to be set aside for increasing our understanding of blind people.

The law, which was effective July 16, 1970, guarantees that all blind people accompanied by guide dogs trained for them by special agencies may not be denied admission to any public place or public conveyance, "subject to the conditions and limitations applicable to all persons not so accompanied," provided the dog is on a leash and does not occupy a seat.

The reading of these two documents was received with

Dick Vining—A Real Success

Dick Vining has been totally blind for 20 years. Yet, he is a man who has learned to live with his handicap very well. He is a respected member of the community, the operator of a successful business, and the blind representative on the Board of Directors of the Toledo Society for the Blind.

Dick started to lose his sight when he was about 40. At that time, he owned a gas station in West Toledo. As his sight became worse and managing the station became increasingly difficult, he eventually sold it.



Dick Vining, at right, and his friend Dr. Schroder are involved in a wide variety of activities.

He eventually regained confidence in himself through this training, and now operates the lunchroom on the first floor of the Federal Customs Building on Spielbusch Avenue where government employees, attorneys, and other area people gather to eat their lunches and indulge in conversation.

Dick is respected not only as a host but also as a confidant on a wide range of subjects, particularly in giving advice to people who have blind relatives or friends they wish to help.

One of Dick's functions on the Blind Society's Board of Directors is referring people to the Society who had been reluctant to go and get help on their own.

Dick said that blind people often mistakenly believe that their handicap is the end of a meaningful existence. It is important for them to keep up on current events, he said, so that they can have intelligent conversations with friends.

The Toledo Society for the Blind offers many opportunities to keep up with current events, such as talking books on timely topics, Family Night activities, and Book Reviews.

One of the most interesting and rewarding friendships Dick has cultivated is with Dr. E. F. Schroder, a dentist who lost his sight through an accident. Dick met the Doctor through the Toledo Society for the Blind. The two of them have worked on many projects. For instance, Dick taught Dr. Schroder cabinet-making as a hobby, and together they remodeled a room in Dr. Schroder's West Toledo home.

They both contribute a great deal of their time to the Society in looking for and testing projects that other blind people can learn to do.

Dr. Schroder said that he owes a great deal to Dick, as it was Dick who helped him overcome the initial depression of becoming handicapped.

Dick was also instrumental in bringing Attorney Clarence G. Smith, who recently lost his sight, to the Society for various activities. (See adjacent story.)

In addition to operating the lunchroom and donating a great deal of his spare time to the Society, Dick has also leased a parking lot across from the Federal Customs Building and rents spaces in it to county employees.

Although Dick is a busy man, he is always ready to lend a helping hand. If you're ever in need of some advice, just stop in at the lunchroom on the first floor of the Federal Customs Building and Dick will be happy to talk to you.

a great deal of exuberance by the audience, since these documents are yet another step for the blind in reaching the independence they have wanted for so long.

In this difficult time when he was losing his vision, Dick was reluctant to get help from any agency for the blind, since he felt that a white cane would cause people to "look" at him.

However, when he lost his sight completely in 1950, he went through mobility training and was

A NEWS LETTER TO HELP YOU BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THIS RED FEATHER AGENCY

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New Staff Members, Residence Add To Rehabilitation Program

"Progress" has been the key word in the rehabilitation program at the Toledo Society for the Blind. We have created a new Rehabilitation Department, which is an extension of the already excellent rehabilitation facilities at the Society, and have staffed it with two new employees, with three more to be added soon.

We have also purchased and furnished a student residence at 813 Ontario Street, and it now houses our two first out-of-town students.

Funding for the Rehabilitation Center at the Society Build-



Our new student residence at 813 Ontario Street is maintained by Society employees Mr. and Mrs. Howard Peters.

ing on Canton Avenue and the maintenance of the residence comes from various sources: the Vocational Rehabilitation Service for the Blind, Department of Public Health, State of Ohio, which pays 80 percent of the salaries of the added rehabilitation personnel, furnishes rehabilitation money for each applicant who qualifies as legally blind, and pays for the room and board for the out-of-city blind we train. And, because it is a Red Feather Agency, the Society gets some help from the United Appeal. However, if it weren't for the additional contributions of both time and money we received from our many friends in the community, the expansion of our Rehabilitation Department could never have been accomplished.

Our new Rehabilitation Department is headed by Rehabilitation Director Mr. Barry McEwen, who comes to us from the State's Vocational Rehabilitation Service for the Blind and has a masters degree in rehabilitation from Bowling Green State University. Mr. McEwen's primary function will be to coordinate state activities and Society activities.

His duties will also include the coordination of the other positions in his department. These include Mobility Training, under Mrs. Rosalyn Snow; Techniques of Daily Living, under newly employed Mrs. Patricia Colburn, and the three new positions as yet unfilled, which are: Training Supervisor,

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Time To Order Your 1970 Holiday Cards

Although it is only October, the holiday season will be here before we know it.

And, with the holidays comes the wishing of seasons greetings to our friends and relatives. This year, as in seasons past, the Society is offering you a selection of three beautiful holiday cards. You can order these attractive cards in any quantity, imprinted with your name if you wish.

Society for the Blind holiday cards offer "Seasons Greetings" and something more. They represent your contribution to the Society's many activities, the special, "extra-curricular" programs which are not provided for by United Appeal funds. Among these are summer camp, eye screening for young people, the community medical clinic at St.

Vincent Hospital, family nights, help for blind bowlers, and the annual visit from Santa with gifts for our blind children.

The cards are easy to order. Just fill out the enclosed postpaid order form, indicate your imprint if you so desire (up to three lines), and drop it in the mail.

You will not receive a bill or invoice from us for these cards. We only ask that you think of our needs and make a contribution to the Society. Anything over the amount you usually pay for your holiday cards is tax deductible.

And you can feel especially good about sending these lovely cards, knowing that your contribution has given the Society the opportunity to continue these important activities.

Expansion Of Rehabilitation Program

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Work Evaluator, and Rehabilitation Counselor. Mrs. Turner is receptionist for the new department, which is located in the basement of the Society Building on Canton Avenue.

Mrs. Colburn, our new Techniques of Daily Living Instructor, is a graduate of Michigan State University, with a bachelors degree in home economics. Her duties at the Society center around our new Techniques of Daily Living apartment (which we told you about in our last newsletter), where she teaches blind people the "everyday" skills that we often take for granted, such as cooking, making beds, washing dishes, dusting, etc.

These additions to our staff have become necessary due to the increased number of rehabilitation trainees which will be coming to us soon.

We expect to have six blind in training by December, and will increase this number as staff time and facilities permit.

Of this increasing number of trainees, at least two at any given time will be out-of-town students, who will stay in our newly-acquired student residence, maintained by Society



The comfortable rooms provide a pleasant place to rest after classes at the Society.

employees Mr. and Mrs. Howard Peters. The residence can accommodate as many as six live-in students at one time, and we hope to have full occupancy in the not-too-distant future.

We are indeed happy to have Mr. and Mrs. Peters taking care of the residence. They moved into the Ontario Street house from their permanent home in Oak Harbor at the beginning of June. Both Mr. and Mrs. Peters have been connected with the Society for some time. Mr. Peters is blind and employed in the sheltered workshop. Mrs. Peters has assisted with cooking and delivering sewing to the blind for almost nine years.

In the Ontario Street residence, out-of-town students can enjoy a comfortable "home away from home" while receiving training at the Society's Rehabilitation Center on Canton Avenue. It also provides a kind of "testing ground" for the skills they learn at the Society.

The need for this residence is readily apparent. There are almost 4,000 legally blind people in the 24-county area of Northwest Ohio served by the Society, most of whom could



Students can "test" what they've learned in the kitchen by aiding in meal preparation, setting the table, and washing dishes.

benefit from the training offered by our Rehabilitation Department. Almost 3,000 of these people are from outside the Toledo-Lucas County area.

By maintaining this residence, we can give them accommodations while they receive training from our excellent staff here in Toledo. In the past, the closest residence training was at centers in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and Columbus.

The residence itself has two floors. One of the bedrooms, the kitchen, dining area, and living room are on the first floor. The other two bedrooms and bathroom are upstairs. Each of the bedrooms has two twin beds, and there is plenty of closet space for students' clothes and personal things. The furniture is modern and comfortable. Separate quarters for the Peters' are also on the first floor.

The purchasing costs and furnishing requirements of the Ontario Street residence were met through the receipt of bequests and contributions to the Society. We are indeed thankful for everyone's continued support and interest.

John Goerlich Receives Honorary Doctorate



John Goerlich

Society President John Goerlich has frequently been recognized for the service he has given to the community.

Among the honors conferred on him have been the "Outstanding Individual of the Year" award in 1958 by the Ohio Rehabilitation Association for his work with the blind, and the "Local Industry Award," presented to his company,

AP Parts, from the Goodwill Industries of Toledo in 1960 for the company's program of rehabilitation and employment for the handicapped.

Mr. Goerlich has been on the Board of Directors of the Toledo Society for the Blind for 20 years, and has served as its President for 12.

On March 20, 1970, Mr. Goerlich received yet another honor for the contributions he has made to the community—the presentation of the honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Toledo.

The following are the remarks made by University President William S. Carlson in presenting the degree to Mr. Goerlich: "John Goerlich, the story of your life could well have come straight from the pages of Horatio Alger.

"You arrived in Toledo as a youth of 14 to work in one of the factories of the emerging automotive industry. Before you were 30, you had started your own business in the basement of your home. Your inventive genius and managerial skill has resulted in its growth into an enterprise of international scope.

"Your long service for the Toledo Society for the Blind, including 12 years as President of its Board, is but one of many examples of your concern for your fellow citizens.

"The University of Toledo honors you as a man of great faith in our city and its people and it recognizes you as an industrial pioneer, inventor, proud grandfather and, I might add, it even notes your skill as a fisherman. For all these attributes, then, you are deemed highly deserving of the degree that I am privileged to present, the Doctor of Laws."

We're sure you'll join the Society in extending congratulations to Mr. Goerlich on his degree and expressing gratitude for all the ways in which he has benefited the Society, and indeed the community.

Summer Highlights For Society Include Rally, Camp, Trip To Park

In addition to the "business as usual" at the Toledo Society for the Blind in the Industrial Division, Home Services Department, Techniques of Daily Living Center, and Mobility Training, the summer provided a chance for many social activities.

Highlights of this busy schedule were a trip to Edgewater Amusement Park, the third annual Braille Sports Car Rally, and a week at Camp Yukita.

Edgewater Park

Some 60 sighted and blind took part in the excursion to Edgewater Amusement Center in Detroit on July 15. This was the first time we have gone to this park, and all who went enjoyed themselves.

A picnic lunch was served on arrival, and the rest of the day was spent playing cards, riding the nearly 30 amusements, or just enjoying the day.

The people at the park were extremely helpful, having heard that there were going to be some blind visitors, and an amiable atmosphere prevailed. There are plans to make the trip to Edgewater an annual event.

Braille Rally

The Braille Sports Car Rally in which blind navigators direct sighted drivers, was held in July this year, two months earlier than it has been held previously.

Unfortunately, the early date seemed to have caused a drop in participation, due to the fact that many sports car drivers were on vacation at the time. Nevertheless, there were 40 blind navigators who came to the Society building the pleasant Sunday afternoon of July 26 to take off down the 75-mile course.

Since there weren't quite 40 sports car drivers, some of the spectators were good enough to volunteer to drive the course so that all the navigators would get a chance to participate.

The navigators are legally blind persons from the Society who read braille to direct their drivers on the course, which runs mostly through Monroe County, Michigan.



Trophy winner Adeline Opelt

team, who will remain nameless, that rolled in four hours late.

A good time was had by all. Refreshments were served at the Society building after the rally and trophies donated by local businesses were presented to the winners. The \$5.00 entry fee is donated to the Society for the Blind's Eye Screening program for young children. This year a total of \$150 in entry fees went to this fund.

Thanks go to Mrs. Hugh Kirk of the Northwest Ohio Region Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), and to Mr. Wayne Zitkus, who was rallymaster. SCCA has co-sponsored the rally with the Society for the Blind since the event's inception three

Rallies are scored on a penalty point system, in which the team with the least number of points wins. Points are added to scores for missing checkpoints, driving too fast or too slow, or getting to a given checkpoint too early or too late.

The winners of this year's rally were Ronald Harris and John Chalmers. The highest score was made by a certain

years ago. Thanks also go to members of REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Citizens Team) who helped direct traffic and several who helped out by actually driving the course because of the lack of drivers.



Navigator Eddie Lardie receives his trophy from Mrs. Hugh Kirk, chairman of the Braille Sports Car Rally.

Camp Yukita

Fish were practically jumping onto the boat as nine campers and Society Director Lyle Kirk dropped their lines while at Camp Yukita, Catawba Island, for the Society for the Blind's annual camping trip.

Lake Erie perch abounded, and everyone caught from 12-35 fish—everyone except Mr. Kirk, that is. He was so busy baiting hooks and helping the blind youngsters that he didn't have time to do much fishing on his own!

Fishing was just one of the many activities that included shopping, boat rides, a visit to Enchanted Forest, crafts, swimming, and dancing the week of August 3 to August 8 at the Lake Erie Camp. Approximately 60 blind and sighted campers came this year.

The camp is supported by a \$14.00 fee for each camper for the week, with additional funds coming from Christmas card sales and individual contributions, since it is not a United Appeal funded function.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable summer, and we wish to thank the many, many people who donated their time and services to make it such a happy and active summer for our blind friends.

Out With The Tide

We are saddened to report to you the untimely death of Charles (Baldy) Wetzel, a dear friend of the Society and a well-known local entertainer. He passed away August 4 at the age of 79.

Mr. Wetzel had donated his time and talents to the Society on many occasions, including last year's Christmas party. He had planned to be our camp musician this year.

Mr. Wetzel had been losing his sight due to glaucoma, and had been legally blind since last November. He had received a talking book and white cane from the Society.

His talents as an entertainer were known throughout the community, and he attracted crowds at night spots and clubs all over the city whenever he played.

On her husband's death, Mrs. Wetzel asked that any remembrance tributes be given to the Society for the bowling league.

Mr. Wetzel will be sadly missed by all who knew him and had been entertained by him.